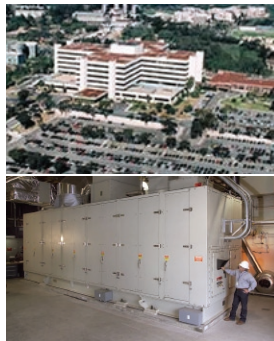


natural gas turbine system which provided electricity and heat for the campus had become outdated. Since that system emitted more air pollutants than current generation gas turbines, VASDHS replaced it with a new highly-efficient turbine. The new turbine emits about 50 times fewer pollutants. As an additional benefit, the regional air quality regulator issued VASDHS emissions reduction credits, which can be traded through certified brokers. VASDHS applied the monetary value of these credits as a buy-down toward its project cost by transferring the credits to the project developer. The market value of the emission reduction credits generated \$4.2 million toward the investment in the new turbine.



John Reiker, Clifford Schem, Ruben Rodriguez, Lu Richards, Riverside, California National Cemetery ~ WASH STATION REDESIGN

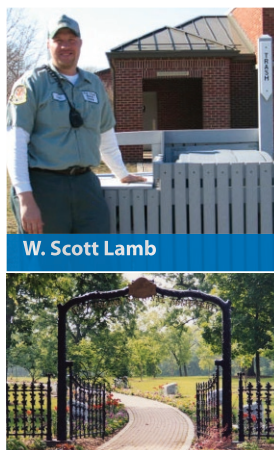
Vehicles/equipment at Riverside National Cemetery require washing prior to maintenance and to maintain an acceptable appearance. The wash water may contain grease, oil, and grass clippings that are drained into a grassed swale or storm water drain. The washings used approximately 400,000 gallons of potable water per year. Cemetery gardener Dale Cass is pictured using the redesigned wash rack with the WaterStax Wash Water Treatment System, which collects the wash water for reuse and eliminates the discharge of wash water into the environment. The system resulted in a 100 percent reduction in potentially grease- and oil-containing wash water run-off, and a 99 percent reduction in potable water use, saving an estimated \$11,400 per year. The wash station redesign at this cemetery serves as an excellent example of sustainable vehicle/equipment washing practices for other national cemeteries to follow.



Green Purchasing

W. Scott Lamb and Kenneth Nussear, Rock Island, Illinois National Cemetery ~ RECYCLED PLASTIC LUMBER USE

Rock Island National Cemetery evaluated, purchased, and, in some cases, built trash and floral cone receptacles, protective headstone covers, directional street signs, and “stone plugs” out of recycled plastic lumber. These items would normally require the use of non-environmentally preferable materials. Following the successful testing at Rock Island, the plastic lumber items were approved for use at satellite cemeteries,



including a Confederate cemetery and Quincy and Keokuk National Cemeteries. This project has improved the appearance of these cemeteries and has reduced operations, maintenance, and replacement costs for wood products.

Honorable Mentions

Environmental Management Systems

Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Healthcare Analysis and Information Group and Technical Advisory Group: Wayne Ashley, Beth Babick, Arnie Bierenbaum, Tom Boos, Jane Hendrickson, Marion Kolsch, Karen Lentz, Linda Martin, Barbara Matos, Robert Matthes, Marybeth Matthews, Rosemary Patnode, Dennis Repke, Jack Staudt, Gregory Winters, and Lisa Woodings ~ ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

This survey was designed to gather data to evaluate VA medical center and network implementation of Green Environmental Systems (GEMS) and other environmental program management requirements. The survey both measures and audits progress in the development, implementation, and ongoing management of GEMS and helps with other goals associated with GEMS, including documenting VHA's achievements in its GEMS program, communicating top management support of GEMS, and identifying national strengths and opportunities for improvement. The added benefits of this survey include the ability to gather data in support of the annual progress report on implementing Executive Order 13148, Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management.

Recycling

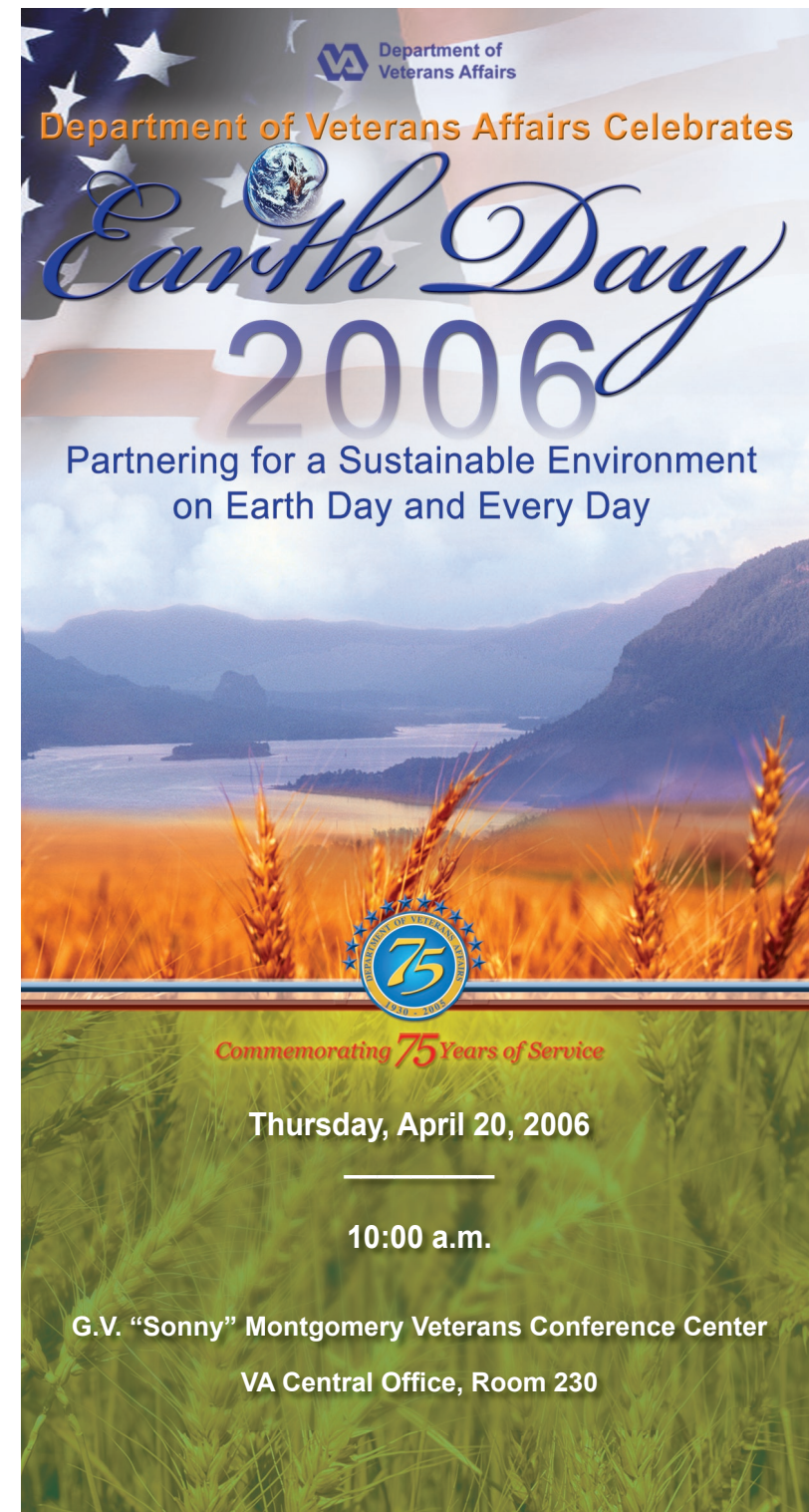
William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin ~ INNOVATIVE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Among this facility's approaches to maximizing recycling efforts is source segregation at the point of waste generation of recyclables and materials bound for final disposal. Employees have taken their recycling education and waste reduction program to heart. This dedication has resulted in the recycling of over 505,000 pounds of solid waste in FY 2005 (an all-time high of 44.6 percent recycled), compared to over 276,000 pounds in FY 1999, an increase of nearly 229,000 pounds. The increase over last year alone was over 27,000 pounds.

One innovative device used to increase the amount of recyclable materials collected at the facility is a cart that has collection bins for five different recyclable materials. The carts are equipped to accept plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspapers, magazines and glass. The recycle bin carts are assembled in-house and are a product of resource recovery as they are constructed from old bedside tables from hospital wards.

Printed on recycled paper

For more information about the VA Environmental Excellence Awards Program or the 2006 winners, visit <http://www1.va.gov/oamm/pmo>.



Department of Veterans Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs Celebrates

Earth Day

2006

Partnering for a Sustainable Environment on Earth Day and Every Day

Commemorating 75 Years of Service

Thursday, April 20, 2006

10:00 a.m.

G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Conference Center

VA Central Office, Room 230

Partnering for a Sustainable Environment

~On Earth Day and Every Day~



On April 22, 1970, Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, launched Earth Day to place the issue of environmental quality on the forefront of the national agenda. Since that day, 36 years ago, Earth Day has led to the passage of major environmental protection legislation, the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and many other positive actions resulting in a considerably cleaner and safer environment.

Partnering for a sustainable environment – on Earth Day and every day – is the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) theme for Earth Day 2006. Collaborative and cooperative efforts within VA, across the Federal Government, and in local communities where we operate, are essential if we are to safeguard our natural resources and ensure a sound environment for current and future generations.

VA takes this opportunity to renew and strengthen its commitment to being a good steward of the environment and to working in partnerships to achieve a sustainable environment. VA calls upon all employees and facilities nationwide to take action to continually improve the management of environmental programs and to protect and preserve the environment.

To learn how you can support Earth Day and the environment every day at work, at home, at school, and in your community, visit the VA Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management's Environmental Affairs – Greening VA web site at <http://www1.va.gov/oamm/pmo> and enter “**Earth Day**” in the search box.

VA thanks all its employees for their dedication to ensuring a healthy environment while serving our Nation's veterans.

Earth Day Program

Welcome
Mr. Jan R. Frye
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Acquisition and Materiel Management

Introduction of Mr. Edwin Piñero
Federal Environmental Executive
Mr. Jan R. Frye

Earth Day Remarks
Mr. Edwin Piñero

Introduction of Mr. Robert J. Henke
Assistant Secretary for Management and
VA Environmental Executive
Mr. Jan R. Frye

2006 VA Environmental Excellence Awards Presentation
Mr. Robert J. Henke
Mr. Edwin Piñero

Closing Remarks
Mr. Jan R. Frye

Green Purchasing Awareness Fair
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
VACO Room C-7

2006 VA Environmental Excellence Award Winners

The Department of Veterans Affairs congratulates each of the 2006 VA Environmental Excellence Award Winners and Honorable Mentions. Their leadership in environmental initiatives serves as an example not only to their colleagues, but also to the Federal community at-large.

Recycling

Sharon Ricketts Williams, VA Illiana Healthcare System, Danville, Illinois
~ IT ALL COMES BACK TO YOU!

The VA Illiana Healthcare System (VAIHS) takes a highly integrated approach to recycling and identifying recyclables, including the more unusual items such as fats and consumable food oils generated by the Nutrition and Food Service and the Canteen Service. VAIHS demonstrates environmental stewardship with its dedication to recycling through streamlined recycling procedures, inter-service cooperation and support, and community partnering. Innovative methodologies are continually explored for ways to accomplish the VA mission while avoiding the unnecessary addition of solid waste and toxic substances to the environment. In FY 2005, VAIHS achieved a 28.2 percent recycling rate, exceeding its goal of 25 percent and generating \$3,459 in revenue, while saving \$51,643 in total cost avoidances. VAIHS also works closely with local schools to donate excess computers under Executive Order 12999, Educational Technology, Ensuring Opportunity for All Children in the Next Century. In the last fiscal year, VAIHS donated or recycled 204 systems, avoiding disposition costs of up to \$24,480.



Patricia Edington and Sharon Ricketts Williams
(pictured left to right)



Waste/Pollution Prevention (Co-Winners)

Randall Ritter, Bill Dias, and Thomas Olson, VA San Diego Healthcare System ~ NITROGEN OXIDES REDUCTION

The VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) replaced a major piece of equipment in its energy plant in 2005. The existing



Randall Ritter, Bill Dias, and Thomas Olson
(pictured left to right)